

--17. The process according to claim 16, wherein an amount of all the impurities in the monomer and solvent to be fed to the polymerization reactor is reduced to less than 0.40 equivalent based on an initiator to be fed to the polymerization reactor, and the rubber polymer obtained contains a modified component in an amount exceeding 60 wt.%.--

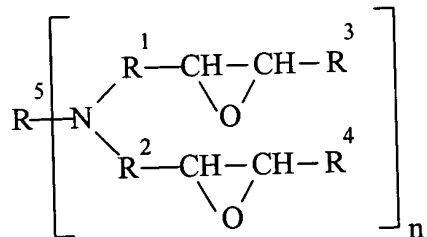
--18. The process according to claim 16, wherein the modifier is a polyfunctional compound having at least two epoxy groups in its molecule.--

--19. The process according to claim 17, wherein the modifier is a polyfunctional compound having at least two epoxy groups in its molecule.--

--20. The process according to claim 16, wherein the modifier is a polyfunctional compound having at least two epoxy groups and at least one nitrogen atom in its molecule.--

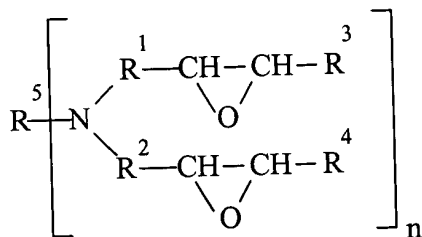
--21. The process according to claim 17, wherein the modifier is a polyfunctional compound having at least two epoxy groups and at least one nitrogen atom in its molecule.--

--22. The process according to claim 16, wherein the modifier is represented by the following formula:



wherein, R¹ and R² each independently represents a C₁₋₁₀ hydrocarbon group or a C₁₋₁₀ hydrocarbon group having an ether or a tertiary amine, R³ and R⁴ each independently represents hydrogen, a C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbon group or a C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbon group having an ether or tertiary amine, R⁵ represents a C₁₋₁₂ hydrocarbon group or a C₁₋₁₂ hydrocarbon group having at least one group selected from ethers, tertiary amines, epoxy, carbonyl and halogens, and n stands for 1 to 6.--

--23. The process according to claim 17, wherein the modifier is represented by the following formula:



Application No.: 09/856,845
0649-0777P

B wherein, R^1 and R^2 each independently represents a C_{1-10} hydrocarbon group or a C_{1-10} hydrocarbon group having an ether or a tertiary amine, R^3 and R^4 each independently represents hydrogen, a C_{1-20} hydrocarbon group or a C_{1-20} hydrocarbon group having an ether or tertiary amine, R^5 represents a C_{1-12} hydrocarbon group or a C_{1-12} hydrocarbon group having at least one group selected from ethers, tertiary amines, epoxy, carbonyl and halogens, and n stands for 1 to 6.--

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.